inter-State characteristics and 50 per cent for projects of a particular State. The criterion adopted are as under:—

(i) Inter-State Roads/Bridges necessary for ensuring through communication;

(ii) Roads/Bridges required for opening up new areas to which railway facilities cannot be provi-*i* ded in the near future.

(iii) Roads/Bridges which can contribute materially to rapid economic development, e.g. in hilly .areas and places having mineral resources for exploitation.

(iv) Roads or bridges connecting National Highways.

Proposals for assistance are sanctioned on the tasis of detailed estimates.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hardwaire requirements of tbs Armed Forces

*308. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whft are the major military hard ware requirements for the armed forces on which the coiratry continue's to be dependent on imports;

(b) the estimated annual expsndifure being incurred by Government on the imports of military hardware;

(c) the steps taken by Government to far the indigenisation of the military hardware .iintj the achievement in remo ving forcijjn de-pendency; and

(d) what strategy has been formulated by Govrnment to step up the indigeni-satioa of the key areas of military hardware requirements and the period by which self sufficiency in these areas is to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV-: (a) and (b) India continuces to import systems and equipment from abroad for the Navy, Air Force and Army including aircraft, bhips, submarines and their sub-systems whose production in India is not feasible or viable. The annual expenditure oa imports includes debt repayment for previoussly purchased eq-uipment from different 'sources.

(c) and (d) At ten-year plan for self-reliance in Defence Systems has been evolved to increas the ratio of expenditure on defence systems procured from indig enous sources to the total exi'enditu e on acquisitions in a particular year from the present level of 30 percent lo 70 percent by the year 2005. A 'Self-reliawce Implementation Council' under the chairmanship of Snentiflc Advis:r to RM has been constituted for the purpose.

A three-pronged thrust for achieving self-reliance is envisaged by (i) su'staining the existing defence systems through in-di'jenisation of spares, (ii) upgrading ex isting weapon 'systems, (iii) progressive induction of more indigenous defence systems aad reduce the imports of major systems.

National Sericulture Projects

*309. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected National Sericulture Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features with along-details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount of tinaacial assistance received by Government from differetit international agencies and fund's allotted to the States in the country, Stage-wise; and